

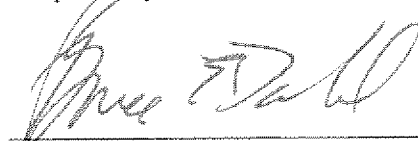
REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 20-30 are canceled. Claims 6-19 stand rejected. Reexamination and reconsideration are requested.

The examiner rejected claims 6-19 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No 6,626,976. As U.S. Patent No. 6,626,976 and the present invention defined by claims 6-19 were commonly owned at the time the invention was made and continue to be commonly owned, the applicants are filing concurrently with this reply a terminal disclaimer under 37 C.F.R. §1.321(c) to overcome the examiner's double-patenting rejection.

The applicants believe that all of the claims now pending in this patent application, as described above, are allowable and that the issues raised by the examiner have been addressed. Therefore, applicants respectfully request the examiner to reconsider the rejections and to grant an early allowance. If any questions or issues remain to be resolved, the examiner is requested to contact the applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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